

RSB:ELC

April 3, 1941

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/16/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta, Georgia

RE: REVEREND DONALD L. WEST;
INTERNAL SECURITY (C).

Dear Sir:

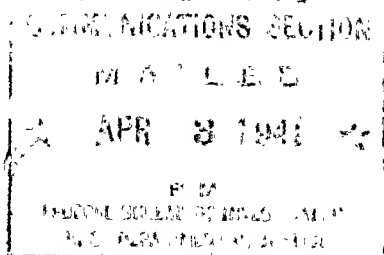
In connection with listing the above named individual for possible custodial detention, pending investigation in the event of a national emergency, a review of the files at the Bureau indicates that he was last reported to be pastor of the Meansville Congregational Christian Church, Meansville, Georgia, and is publishing and circulating a pamphlet called "The Country Parson", from Post Office Box 27, Meansville, Georgia.

For your information the Reverend West was born either near Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, in 1907, or in Gilmer County, Georgia, in 1908. He is the son of a Methodist minister and studied theology at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. He has long been a Communist and was active in Atlanta, Georgia, until 1934, when he was forced to leave the state. From about 1936 to 1938 he was state organizer for the Communist Party in Kentucky and thereafter was associated with the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee. Early in 1940 he was reported to be in New York City and in April, 1940, was said to be located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During the summer of 1940 he was alleged to be active in the work of the American Peace Mobilization at Bethel, Ohio, until he left for Georgia in the fall of the same year. His ancestral home is said to be in Kennesaw, Georgia.

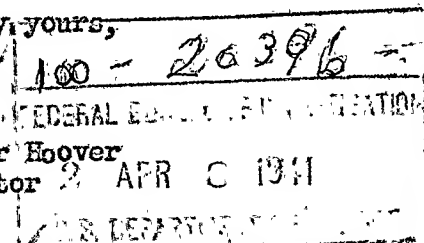
It is requested that your Office ascertain the present residence address of the Reverend West and advise the Bureau.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED & INDEXED Very truly yours,



John Edgar Hoover
Director



008532

10:41

May 19, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. L. M. C. SMITH
 CHIEF, SPECIAL DEFENSE UNIT

There is transmitted herewith a dossier showing the information presently available in the files of this Bureau with respect to REV. DONALD L. WEST whose address is Kennesawville, Georgia.

It is recommended that this individual be considered for custodial detention in the event of a national emergency. The information contained on the attached dossier constitutes the basis for appropriate consideration in this regard.

It should be understood, of course, that additional information may be received from time to time supplementing that already available in the Bureau's files, and as such data are received they will be made available to you so that the dossier in your possession may be supplemented thereby.

It will be greatly appreciated if you will advise this Bureau at your earliest convenience as to the action reached in this case.

RECORDED
 Very truly yours,

INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6 MAY 21 1941

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

John Edgar Hoover
 Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 3/10/82 BY SP1/ASL/PSK

100-20396-1X
 10

SECRET

①
rw

7

WEST, REV. DONALD L. (Native born)

COMMUNIST

Meansville, Georgia 4-7-41

Son of Methodist minister and studied theology at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., for short time and while there caused considerable amount of agitation. Active in Atlanta, Ga. till 1934 organizing negroes and poor whites and distributed literature amongst them. Left Atlanta sometime in 1932 and has not been back since. Worked on Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners. Was in NYC early in 1940 and wrote book of poems called "Between the Plow Handles." Born in Gilmer County, Ga. in 1908. Home said to be in Kennesaw, Ga. (John Hudson, attorney, Citizen & Southern Bank Building, Atlanta, Ga., 65-9302-4)

Sub-district organizer of C.P. in Atlanta, Ga., about 1934 but was forced to leave State. (Conf. Inf. #2, Pittsburgh, T.O., 65-9302-1)

Is notorious Communist. (Conf. Inf. [redacted] Atlanta T.O., 61-7347-63)

b2
b7D

State Organizer of C.P. in Kentucky in 1936 (Unknown outside source, 61-443-1230)

As state organizer of Kentucky, he was staunch supporter of C.P. ticket during 1936 election. (National Republic Lettergram Report #46; 61-7586-116)

Class. & Ext. By SP-1 CCK/ack

Reason-FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2

Date of Review 3/12/92

RECORDED

30- ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

CH-5

SECRET

100-20396-2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 MAY 27 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

~~SECRET~~

- la -

Affiliated with C.P. in Lexington, Ky., several years ago. (Henry S. McGuire, attorney, 804 Citizens Bank Building, Lexington, Ky., 9-13-37; 40-3918-1)

Recruited complainant's son, Wm. Paul Alcorn, for military service in Loyalists Army in Spanish Civil War, 1937. Alcorn sailed from NYC for Cobb, Ireland on 9-5-37 but was apprehended there and returned to Lexington. (Mrs. Ethel Alcorn, R.F.D. #6, Georgetown Pike, Lexington, Ky.; 40-3918-1)

In Sept. 1937, West said he was going to Mexico where he hoped to write novel. Once studied for ministry. Born near Cumberland Gap, Tenn. about 1907. (Allen McElfresh, secretary, Workers Alliance of America, Lexington, Ky., 40-3918-1)

One of leaders of C.P. in Kentucky in 1938 with headquarters at Louisville, Ky. (Unknown outside source, 61-7559-3172)

Attended 10th National Convention of C.P. in NYC in 1938. (Unknown outside source, 61-7559-3063)

Formerly associated with Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn. Wrote parody in 1938 on "My Country 'Tis of Thee" which ran in Part: "Land of mass misery, Of this I sing, Land where the workers toil, And bosses reap their spoil, Where children starve and freeze, From fall to spring." (Chattanooga, Tenn., News-Free Press, 11-13-40; 61-7511-A)

~~SECRET~~

110

~~SECRET~~

WEST, REV. DONALD L.

- 2 -

COMMUNIST

Located in Minneapolis, Minn. in April, 1940. Zealous worker in support of ex-Governor Benson. (Unknown outside source, 4-17-40; 61-7559-7599)

b2
b7D

One Rev. Don West, Bethel, Ohio, active in work of American Peace Mobilization until he left for Georgia in fall of 1940. (Conf. Inf. [redacted] Cincinnati, F.O., 61-10498-403)

Presently pastor of Meansville Congregational Christian Church, Meansville, Ga., and publishes and circulates pamphlet called "The Country Parson" from P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga. (Chief of Police Walter Anderson, Winston-Salem, NC. P.D.; 61-7583-26) *WAS* ✓

~~SECRET~~

WAS

3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-559 EBG

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 7-17-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-8,16,17,18-41	REPORT MADE BY GERALD B. CRAWFORD
TITLE REVEREND DONALD L. WEST			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject resides Meansville, Ga., is a Congregational Preacher, married, publishes small newspaper, ships literature to American Peace Mobilization, New York; has enlisted services of Meansville farm youth [redacted] and WPA foreman W. ROY SMITH in carrying on activities and gradually inciting townsfolk.

b6
b7C

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated April 3, 1941.

DETAILS: This report is made in order to consolidate the information found in the various Atlanta files relating to the subject.

On May 8, 1941, [redacted] and a member of the American Legion, [redacted] on the main street of that town, came into the office and furnished the following information:

b7D

[redacted] stated that he has known the subject as a church member and fellow townsman since his arrival in the town of Meansville sometime in August or September 1940. He states that the subject is a Congregational Preacher and lives about one-half a mile north of the center of the town of Meansville; that the home of the subject is rented either by the subject or the members of the congregation; that the subject attends to three or four churches, the location of which was unknown to the informant; that the subject drives a Willys automobile, either 1939 or 1940. He further stated that the subject is a

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/14/02 BY SP-1 GSP/KSP

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 3 Atlanta		100-20396-3 JUL 19 1941	JUL 19 1941

Atlanta, 100-559

man about 35 years of age, tall and gangly, dark-haired, has a cast in one eye (did not know which), and is well educated.

He added that the subject is married, has two girls, one about three, and the other about six; that the subject has traveled on the continent of Europe and is such a subtle speaker that his congregation does not realize he is influencing them with his ideas.

It was further stated that the subject is printing and distributing a small newspaper called the "Country Parson" in the town of Meansville and is shipping literature to the American Peace Mobilization, 1133 Broadway, New York City. He stated also that the subject possessed and operates a printing press in his own residence, and that he either hands the literature to the townsmen or mails it to them; that the subject's philosophy is reflected in these papers; that he stirs up class hatred, labor against capital, and his teachings appear to be Communistic.

In addition to the subject's individual activity it was stated that he has obtained the services of others to aid in the distribution of his papers; that one [redacted] about 25 years of age, son of a farmer near Meansville, and who is a boy who has done no work and is considered a Ne'er-do-well, is now assisting the subject and only recently was sent to New York on some sort of a Congregational Peace meeting; that such a trip is strange since the church has no funds, the boy has none, and the subject has none or at least earns none since his salary is no more than \$135 per month. b6 b7C

It was further stated that one W. ROY SMITH, a WPA foreman, above the average in intelligence, who originally lived in New Brunswick, has been associated with the subject since last winter when his afflicted child became ill; that the subject, [redacted] and SMITH are together very often, wait for the mail every evening and after the mail comes in they all go across the street to SMITH'S residence [redacted] and that there they have some sort of a conference. b7D

He further stated that one [redacted] Meansville, age about 25, a mechanic who works for the Holloway Canning Co., Meansville, and whose father runs a small shop there, has complained that the talks of the subject have definitely influenced his mother who cannot read or write and that something should be done about it. He added that the cannery workers were afraid that the subject's literature and ideas would provoke a strike, although such has not been the case to date. b6 b7C

In the file entitled LENANA TANNER (colored), Espionage, in a letter written by G. H. McMILLAN, Sheriff of Cobb County, dated 9-26-40, it is noted that one DON WEST, a white man, son of CHARLES WEST, reported to be a resident of Kenesaw, Ga., contacted the said LENANA TANNER very often but the nature of their business is unknown.

Atlanta, 100-559

The file entitled HAGGLUND PRESS, San Benito, Texas, Espionage, in reference to report made by Special Agent R. N. HOSTENY, dated 8-18-40, states that the subject's book of Communistic poems is being printed and distributed throughout the country by BENJAMIN C. HAGGLUND, operating the HAGGLUND PRESS at 453 East Steger Street, San Benito, Texas.

It is reported in the file entitled JIM BONNER, Espionage, report of Special Agent D. DiLILLO, dated 2-14-40, that one KRAMER or JOHNSON drifted south and he along with DON WEST organized strikes in the Grerr School just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. He went to Georgia as an organizer of the Young Communist League. Later on he became the assistant of DON WEST, who was the sub-district organizer with offices at Atlanta. When District Attorney BOYKIN stirred up trouble for DON WEST and others, JOHNSON skipped town, and hid for awhile at Anniston, Alabama, and later worked for BORIS ISRAEL at Birmingham, Alabama.

File entitled JACK PERRILA, Sabotage, in letter from the Bureau to the SAC New York, dated 3-15-40, with memorandum attached, serials one and two, reveals the fact that BELLE WEST is the purported sister of DON WEST, former minister of the gospel, who was graduated from Vanderbilt University and who subsequently became subdistrict organizer for the Communist Party, District 25, Louisville, Kentucky. It further revealed that BELLE WEST, alias, BELLE MARTIN, accompanied one JACK PERRILA, FBI # 1096724, an avowed Communist, and that both were arrested by the police in Birmingham, Alabama, during 1936. One BEATRICE ADAMS, FBI #863552, may be identical with BELLE MARTIN.

Report made by Special Agent C. A. WHITTEN, Birmingham, Alabama, dated 6-27-40 in the above mentioned case, refers to a memorandum in the files of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & RR Co., Brown Marx Bldg., Birmingham, Alabama, dated 1-28-36, furnished to Special Agent C. A. WHITTEN by Mr. C. R. DAVIS, Chief Deputy of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & RR Co., reflecting the fact that "DON WEST and JACK MARTIN were staying at 1033 Pinson Pike, Tarrant City, Alabama, reported to be the home of JESSIE H. OWEN." The report further shows that DON WEST was contributing a column to the Southern News Almanac on 5-11, 13, 20-40, entitled "The Awakening Church", signing his name as Rev. DONALD L. WEST. Information furnished the Atlanta office by Mr. JOHN HUDSON, attorney, Atlanta, is set forth in the report as follows:

"Mr. HUDSON advised that during 1934, he had taken an active interest in suppressing subversive activities in the City of Atlanta and that he had exerted every effort to stop Communist organizations from being active in that community, as well as stopping the distribution of subversive literature. He stated that during these activities, he came into contact with an individual by the name of DON WEST, who was the son

Atlanta, 100-559

of a Methodist minister; that WEST'S home was in Kennesaw, Georgia, and that he had attended Vanderbilt University for a short time, and while at this institution he had caused a considerable amount of agitation.

Mr. HUDSON further advised that WEST during 1934 at the time of his contact with him, was married and had a small baby,. However, he was unable to furnish WEST'S residence in Atlanta,. He stated that WEST'S activities in Atlanta consisted of holding meetings in the houses of negroes and poor white laborers; that he was also responsible for the distribution of Communist literature in the vicinity. Mr. HUDSON also advised that WEST was active in Atlanta, Ga. and had an associate by the name of JIM BOUNER who was alleged to be a "stooge" for WEST for the purpose of concealing the latter's identity, and that they frequently exchanged names, since there was a marked resemblance between them and they were able to pass for one another.

Mr. HUDSON stated, however, that inasmuch as considerable action was taken against DON WEST at Atlanta, both WEST and BOUNER left there during 1934 and had not been known to return since that time. Further, that he attempted to have an indictment returned against WEST but was unable to do so on account of insufficient evidence and that about this time, the Supreme Court of the United States had returned a verdict against him in the case of ANGELO HERNDON, a negro Communist, whom they had convicted for organizing Communist Clubs and distributing literature in Atlanta, and for that reason it was rather difficult to take action against WEST at that time.

Mr. HUDSON further advised that among some Communist literature, which he obtained, was a copy of the Daily Worker, dated 1-11-34, in which there was an article about DON WEST, in which it was stated that WEST had just written a small book of poems called "Between the Flow Hands" and that WEST was at that time in New York City, following his escape from Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. HUDSON also advised that the above referred to article relative to WEST mentioned the fact that he was working on the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners; that he was a young man over six feet in height, with black eye brows, born in Gilmer County, Georgia, in 1908.

Mr. HUDSON furnished the following description of WEST:

Name:	DONALD L. WEST
Age:	About 30
Height:	Over 6'
Weight:	About 160

Atlanta, 100-559

The writer (C. A. WHITTEN) ascertained by telephonic contact with L. J. JACKSON, Identification Bureau, Birmingham, Police Department that examination of the files in that Bureau failed to reveal any record of DON WEST."

File entitled JACK PERRILA, with aliases, Sabotage, in report of Special Agent F. E. HURLEY, dated 1-23-41 at Louisville, Kentucky, sets forth the following information: Serial 8, page 2 "Reference to the several Louisville City Directories covering a period of several years prior to 1940 developed that the name of one DON WEST and his wife, MABEL WEST, are listed in 1937 as being residents of 1730 Magazine St., Louisville, Ky. WEST is listed as a state organizer for an organization known as the "Workers Alliance of America",. The names of BELLE WEST, with aliases, and subject JACK PERRILA, with aliases, do not appear in any of the Directories during the past several years.

Appropriate inquiries at the office of the Foreman of Carriers, Louisville Central Post Office, developed that the DON WEST living at 1730 Magazine Street left a forwarding address April 13, 1937, as 400 West Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky. No additional information relative to WEST was available at the Post Office.

Subsequent inquiries in the vicinity of 1730 Magazine Street developed that none of the present residents had any knowledge of DON and MABEL WEST. This is true also of BELLE WEST and her alias MARTIN and JACK PERRILA."

The file entitled BART HUNTER LOGAN, Internal Security, in report of Special Agent R. H. WYMAN, Charlotte, N. Carolina, dated 2-20-41 reveals that DONALD L. WEST, presently of the Meansville Congregational Christian Church, Post Office Box 27, Meansville, Georgia, was publishing a pamphlet entitled "The Country Parson". It is to be noted that DONALD L. WEST is a brother of Mrs. BELLE WEST LOGAN. This file also contains a letter from ROBERT CARMICHAEL, General Merchant, Meansville, Georgia, enclosing a copy of the "Country Parson" and stating that "it may be harmless but it is calculated to make trouble for someone. The publisher may not be a Fifth Columnist but his doctrine and utterances will accomplish the same ends. Signed ROBERT CARMICHAEL.

In report of Special Agent LEON O. PRIOR, dated 2-8-41, Atlanta, Georgia, additional information from the files of former Fulton County Solicitor JOHN H. HUDSON, is set forth as follows: "One raid conducted by HUDSON in 1934 was on the apartment of a Communist organizer by the name of DON WEST, then living in Atlanta,. Many pieces of Communist literature were found in the apartment, among them being an outline for Communist Party unit discussion. Paragraph 9 of this outline is quoted as follows because it definitely states that the Communist Party in the United States is controlled by Moscow:

Atlanta, 100-559

"What is the structure of the Communist Party?

The basic organization is the shop, plantation, or street unit.

All the units in a certain territory - say a city or half a city - are under the leadership of a section. A number of sections in a given territory (a state or several states) are under the leadership of the district. All the districts are under the leadership of the Party's center in New York. There is a Communist party in every country, all of them belonging to and led by the Communist International, with headquarters in Moscow. The unit is led by the unit buro; the section by the section committee; the district by the district committee, the Party as a whole by its highest body, the Central Committee (buro). In the Birmingham district are many sections - for instance, city sections X and Y in Birmingham, then the Atlanta section, the Black Belt Section, and the New Orleans section, and so on."

In connection with DON WEST, it will be noted here that in the matter entitled "BART HUNTER LOGAN, with aliases; Internal Security-C", Charlotte, origin, by Special Agent R. H. WYNN, Charlotte, dated 2-20-41, it is stated that WEST is the brother of Mrs. BELLE WEST LOGAN. BART LOGAN is the secretary of the Communist Party of the State of North Carolina. The Atlanta file further indicates that WEST is now living in Meansville, Ga., and is publishing a newspaper known as "The Country Parson". An examination of this paper indicates that it is definitely Communistic. No leads are being set out in this report with regard to WEST inasmuch as a complete investigation of him is being made and will be reported in the previously mentioned case."

A Letter from the Savannah Field Division dated May 14, 1941, enclosed a copy of the "Country Parson" edited by DON WEST having been received through the mails by HOYT W. BROWN, Commander of the American Legion, Brunswick, Post No. 9, Brunswick, Ga. The last issue of the "Country Parson" was forwarded to this office by ROBERT CARMICHAEL of Meansville, Ga., under letter dated 5-12-41 with the following remarks: Following Secretary Stimson's speech, WEST received instructions to get busy, organize clubs, committees, and post pickets as we would soon be at war. The above instructions issued from American Peace Mobilization headquarters over the signature of FREDERICH V. FIELD". On June 3, 1941 a letter was written to the Atlanta office by ROBERT CARMICHAEL of Meansville, Georgia, advising that a large individual, tough, with Jewish features, age about 25 to 30, weight around 185, calling himself CYRUS PORTER and driving an automobile bearing New York tag #6Y78-52 arrived at Meansville, Ga., and called on [redacted] On June 5, 1941 a telephone call was received at the Atlanta Field Office in connection with the above letter dated 6-3-41, setting out the contents of a telegram addressed to CYRUS PORTER, being wired through Fort Valley:

Atlanta, 100-559

New York City,
7:20 P.M. Tuesday

MR. CYRUS PORTER
MEANSVILLE, GEORGIA
BUYING CYCLONE OR CABLE CAN LEAVE TOMORROW WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOU
WIRE PLACE ANSWER POSTAL TELEGRAPH.

b6
b7C

Signed

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION, at Meansville, Georgia will conduct discreet investigation of the subject's activities and determine his present address.

P E N D I N G

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

SDD:MCL
100-559

Atlanta, Georgia
August 4, 1941

8
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: REV. DONALD L. WEST;
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

7
Dear Sir:

Please be advised that on August 4, 1941, a 30-day mail cover was requested on the mail of Rev. DONALD L. WEST, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Georgia. This cover was placed through Mr. M. H. ACKERMAN, Post Office Inspector in Charge, Atlanta, Georgia.

Very truly yours,

F. R. Hammack
F. R. HAMMACK
Special Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/29/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

RECORDED

CH-18

100-20396-4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 AUG 6 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

107

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-23533-7883

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 06-09-2010

SR:ceb

December 1, 1941

~~Confidential~~

Special Agent in Charge
Atlanta, Georgia

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/10/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

RE: REVEREND DONALD L. WEST
INTERNAL SECURITY

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/PSK
ON 5/5/82

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of August 19, 1941, to all Special Agents in Charge enclosing a copy of a memorandum from Mr. Lawrence M. C. Smith, Chief of the Special Defense Unit of the Department of Justice, relative to the classification, as to dangerousness, of the individuals under consideration for custodial detention and the classification, as to sufficiency, of the evidence upon which the dangerousness classification is made.

Please be advised that information has now been received from the Special Defense Unit that

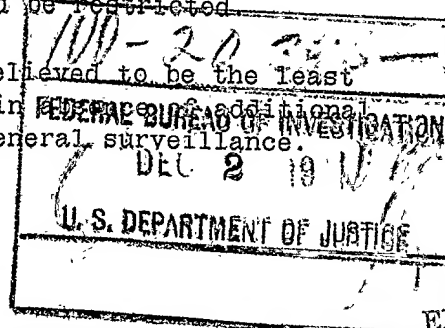
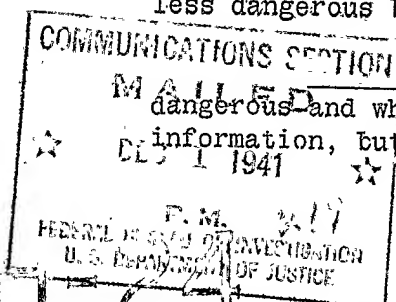
Reverend Donald L. West
Maconville, Georgia

has been tentatively placed in:

y Group A. Individuals believed to be the most dangerous and who in all probability should be interned in event of War.

Group B. Individuals believed to be somewhat less dangerous but whose activities should be restricted.

Group C. Individuals believed to be the least dangerous and who need not be restricted in their activities, but should be subjected to general surveillance.



- 2 -

The evidence relating to Subject has been classified by the Special Defense Unit as:

X 1. Sufficient to establish the charges upon which the dangerous classification was made.

_____ 2. Not satisfactory to substantiate the charges.

With respect to citizenship status, Subject has been tentatively classified by the Special Defense Unit as:

_____ (A) An alien

_____ (N) A naturalized citizen

X (NB) A native born citizen

The above classifications are subject to revision in the light of additional information and you will be promptly informed of any revision of the status of the above named individual.

This investigation must be given preferred and expeditious attention in accordance with existing Bureau instructions and concluded at the earliest possible date. The citizenship status of Subject should be definitely ascertained as soon as possible where this has not already been done.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Louisville, Kentucky**

~~SECRET~~

Lsvl. FILE NO. 100-789

REPORT MADE AT Louisville, Kentucky	DATE WHEN MADE 1/20/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/6/42	REPORT MADE BY R. K. DAVIS RKD/jwf
TITLE D. L. WEST DONALD L. WEST			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.</p> <p>Confidential Informant [redacted] advised he has never heard of subject and confident subject is not presently a member of local Communist Party. Telephone and City Directory checked with negative results. No criminal or police record.</p> <p>Class. & Ext. By SP-1 GSK/PSK Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 Date of Review 3/12/91</p> <p>- C -</p> <p>DETAILS: This investigation is based upon a personal and confidential letter dated January 28, 1937, from the Indianapolis Field Division which reflected that through H. L. chaillux; National Director of the Americanization Committee, American Legion, Indianapolis, Indiana, information was obtained concerning the Communistic set-up by districts throughout the United States. The letter reflects that District 23 with headquarters at Louisville, Kentucky, and which District covers the State of Kentucky, has as organizer, one D. L. WEST. No other address on WEST is given.</p> <p>Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, was contacted regarding D. L. WEST, and advised that he does not know any party by that name and he believes that there never has been a person by the name of D. L. WEST who was employed as an organizer of the Communist Party in the State of Kentucky. [redacted] continued by stating that he is confident that the subject is not presently a member of the local Communist group.</p> <p>Officer F. J. PEAK, Records Bureau, Louisville Police Department, Louisville, Kentucky, advised that a check of the records revealed that D. L. WEST does not have a police record.</p> <p>100-20396-5X</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Louisville		RECORDED INDEXED	

~~SECRET~~

MR. M. SHOOK of the Credit Rating Company, located in the Marion E. Taylor Building, Louisville, Kentucky, stated that a review of the files reflects that D. L. WEST does not have a credit rating.

The Louisville City Directory as well as the Telephone Directory, was checked by the writer to ascertain if the subject was presently residing in Louisville, Kentucky with negative results.

This case is being closed with the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

- C L O S E D -

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 06-09-2010

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECRET~~

Origin: Atlanta, Georgia

File No. 100-559 EMT

Report made at Atlanta, Georgia	Date Made 3-16-42	Period 7-25,30;8-13, 17;9-11,19,23, 26;10-13,18; 11-19;12-1-41 1-7,8,19,20, 22-42	Made by S. D. DURFEE
Title (CHANGED) DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases, Rev. Donald L. West, Don West			Character INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS:

WEST was active in Communist party in Atlanta, Ga. in 1934 during Angelo Herndon case. WEST claims to have helped Herndon write his book. Subject claims to be one of the founders of the Highland Folk School, Mont-eagle, Tenn. Subject reported to have been active in organizing the Harlan County, Kentucky coal miners in 1935 and 1936 for the C.I.O. Subject served as State organizer for W.A. in Kentucky from 1936 to about 1938. Subject reported to have been active in the American Peace Mobilization in Bethel, Ohio in 1940. From the fall of 1940 to 11-1-41 subject served as Congregational minister in Meansville, Ga., where he edited a small newspaper entitled "The Country Parson". Subject has written two books of poetry entitled "Toil and Hunger" and "Crab Grass". Subject is presently residing on a farm located on Route #3, Cartersville, Ga. Subject was born 6-6-06 in Gilmer County, Ga.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF *Class*
DATE *5/19/82*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Class. & Ext. By *SP1/LSK/HOR*
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review *3/29/92*

- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent GERALD B. CRAWFORD dated July 17, 1941 at Atlanta, Georgia

Approved:

SE

J. R. Hammack SAC

100 - 20376 - 6

Copies:
5-Bureau
3-Louisville ✓
3-Miami ✓
3-Knoxville (Info) ✓
3-New Haven ✓
3-Pittsburgh ✓
3-Charlotte ✓
3-Memphis ✓
3-New York
3-Indianapolis
3-Atlanta

3-Chicago ✓
3-Cincinnati ✓
3-Birmingham ✓
3-Savannah ✓
3-Denver ✓
3-Saint Paul ✓
3-Huntington ✓

COPIES DESTROYED

54 OCT 3 1973

~~SECRET~~

COPY IN FILE

EX-6

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being marked changed to reflect the true name of the subject, together with his known aliases.

Bureau letter dated April 3, 1941 captioned "Rev. DONALD L. WEST - INTERNAL SECURITY - C" advised in substance that the subject had long been a communist and was active in Atlanta, Ga. until 1934 when he was forced to leave the state. From about 1936 to 1938 he was State organizer for the Communist Party in Kentucky and thereafter, was associated with the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee. Early in 1940 WEST was reported to be in New York City and in April 1940 was said to be located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During the summer of 1940 WEST was alleged to be active in the work of the American Peace Mobilization at Bethel, Ohio, until he left for Georgia in the fall of the same year.

~~SECRET~~
[X] Informant [] advised subject came to Meansville, Georgia in November 1940. The informant stated that the subject married a northern woman and has two small children. Informant was of the opinion that the subject's wife formerly resided in Bethel, Ohio. He advised that WEST is the Congregational minister in Meansville, Ga., and is continually preaching Communism.

b2
b7D

[X] According to the Informant, the subject has converted one JOEL MATTHEWS into a party member and had sent him to New York for a six months course in a Communist school. He stated that he did not believe subject was publishing "The Country Parson" any more but was distributing Communist literature around the community.

The Informant turned over to the Atlanta office two newspaper clippings which are being retained in the Atlanta files. These newspaper clippings were taken from the Southern News Almanac which was published until recently in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Pike County Journal. The clipping in the Southern News Almanac dated June 6, 1941 under the heading "Awakening Church" by Rev. DONALD L. WEST, discloses that the subject, as of that date, was against war and advocated that America stay out of war because it was a war of the capitalists and imperialistic nations. The clipping dated July 4, 1941 from the Pike County Journal, under the heading "Defend Democratic Ideals" by Rev. DONALD L. WEST, stated that the American people should have no sympathy for Hitler and that America must never submit to Hitler domination. In substance WEST advocated all out aid to the allies. These clippings merely show the change in attitude of WEST after the declaration of war by Germany on Russia on June 22, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta; 100-559

~~SECRET~~

[Confidential Informant] also turned over to the Atlanta Office a book of poems published by DONALD WEST entitled "Toil and Hunger". This book of poems indicates that the subject is an avid Communist. One of the poems in this book is entitled "Listen, I'm an Agitator". The first line of this poem begins: "Listen...! I am an agitator - They call me 'Red', the color of blood, and - 'Bolshevik'!"

b2
b7D

The above book of poems is being retained in the Atlanta file.

[Confidential Informant] further advised that one F. X. BARRY, Laredo, Texas had wired the subject and had arranged a meeting between the subject and BARRY either at Columbus, Ga., or Atlanta, Ga. on August 27, 1941. (S)

Inquiry was made of the San Antonio Field Office by letter for any information they might have in their files concerning F. BARRY of Laredo, Texas and the San Antonio Field Office advised that a search of their indices failed to reflect any information concerning BARRY. (S)

On September 26, 1941 Confidential Informant advised that DONALD WEST had resigned his pastorate at Meansville, Georgia, effective November 1, 1941. Informant advised that DON WEST had moved his household and personal effects to Cartersville, Georgia, Route 3. He stated that WEST apparently was endeavoring to get into the public school system and had registered with The Teachers Placement Service, Atlanta, Georgia, inasmuch as they had referred him to schools at Abbeville and Monticello, Georgia. Informant stated that on September 22, 1941 WEST had received a communication from ALTON LAWRENCE, Atlanta, Georgia, which said "forced to cancel employment, letters follows." It is to be noted that LAWRENCE is a labor leader in Atlanta. (S)

b2
b7D

The Informant forwarded a letter from a friend of WEST in New York City. This letter is dated September 12, 1941, New York, N. Y. The letter is addressed to "Dear Friend Don" and is signed "Harold". Inasmuch as this letter sets out a great deal of information concerning some of WESTS' friends, the letter is being set forth below: (S)

["Dear Friend Don: (S)

I was very glad to hear from you again, and am replying much sooner than my usual wont. Since Celis and I are having to park with a friend until something comes along financially, I am having to write in longhand rather than bang the typewriter. We have been having a tough battle with poverty right now, and poverty has us down for the count of nine." (S)

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

"I have mentioned you to Harry Koger, and will write to him more fully when he replies to my recent letter. After seeing Don Henderson's treatment of Claude Williams in Chicago last year, I doubt very much if you would be able to get on with U S A P A W A. However, Harry now draws his wages from the C.I.O. Int'l Woodworkers of America. (S)

"I have no influence with any of those contacts I mentioned except Koger. If I am able to cement those contacts, I may be able to do something later on. They are people with whom I have a bare speaking acquaintance. If I tried to presume upon that acquaintance, it would do you more harm than good. (S)

"Is there any possibility of your linking up with the new Georgia Fact Finding Committee and getting some support from them in your work etc? A recent number of Atlantic Monthly had a story written by David Cohn about it. And have you thought of inserting an ad in Editor or Publisher to see about getting a job as religious editor or feature writer on some newspaper. This may seem snug, but I do not feel that you should embark on any crusade without some assurance that your wife and babies continue to eat. (S)

"Possibly you might be able to syndicate your column, The Awakening Church, to some of the labor papers, particularly since you could send them galleys from your own press. (S)

"By the way, another progressive poet, Keene Wallis, who is with us temporarily, sends his regards plus the hope of making your acquaintance some day. Keene has a great admiration for your column. You may have read some of his verse. His second book, published by Coward-McCann, is due this fall. (S)

"Some friends of mine here are starting a monthly magazine for campers and hikers. I wish you would send them something about your hiking experiences in Europe along with your picture. Be sure to tell how you managed to get by in your travels plus any good advice to hikers. (S)

"Send the (illegible) to Ruth Widen, Box 10, Sta. C, New York, and do not be afraid of taking a moderately social slant. The mag. probably will not pay at the start, but it will be another means of extending your audience. (S)

"Ruth and her husband, Lew Ney, once published The Latin Quarterly, one of the best of the Village magazines. Ironically enough, Lew comes from my home town in Austin, Texas - the black sheep of a respectable Lutheran family. I know his brother who is president of the Texas (S)

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

"Retail Credit Mens Association. Lew took his present surname from the great sculptress and libertarian, Elisabeth Ney, who lived an exiles existence in Austin and who was his friend (S)

"I am engaged in some correspondence with Ben Patrick of North Carolina, whom I have never met but who recently spent a day with Mike. I should like to know from Mike what he thinks of Ben and how far I can go with him. (S)

"Thanks for the copies of 'The Statesman' - it is, without doubt the most despicable sheet that I have ever seen. The name of that town, Hapeville, ought to be spelled with a T. Incidentally, a mutual friend in Atlanta sent me a copy of a leaflet against 'foreigners' which the KKK had put out in a middle class Jewish district. (S)

"I wish that you would send Ga. farm and labor stories occasionally to Federated Press, 30 Irving Place, N. Y. C. - even when you rewrite them with the correct angle from the Atlanta papers. If you send them the stuff they will provide you with a press card, air mail stamped envelopes, and typewriter ribbons. I found an F P press card to be very handy when I was working in the South. (S)

Write soon.

/s/ Harold" (S)

Informant advised that DON WEST had been elected to teach school at Shady Dale, Georgia. He did not know whether WEST had accepted this appointment or not.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that he had made inquiries of one R. C. WIGLEY, Justice of the Peace, Kennesaw, Georgia, and was informed by him that the subject's sister, ELSIE WEST ROSS was in Russia and that another sister, DELLA WEST ROSS was working for a Communist newspaper in Birmingham, Alabama. b2 b7D

On interview, R. C. WIGLEY advised that the WEST family lived for years in Kennesaw, Georgia. He stated that DONALD WEST is a Communist and that he has influenced the entire WEST family to become Communists. WIGLEY

-5-

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

did not know the family very well personally and directed the writer to ROBERT LEE HOWELL, who is a farmer in the Kennesaw community.

Mr. HOWELL advised that he has lived in the Kennesaw community for a great number of years and that the J. O. WEST family moved to Kennesaw approximately 17 years ago from Ellijay, Georgia, which is located in Gilmer County. HOWELL stated that J. O. WEST, the father of the subject, died approximately three years ago and soon after, Mrs. J. O. WEST, nee LILLIE MULKY, moved to DONALD WEST'S farm near Cass Station, which is a short distance from Cartersville, Georgia. HOWELL stated that DONALD WEST is one of the leaders of the Communists in the United States and had worked all over the United States for the Communist Party. He stated that the subject attended school at one time in Europe and traveled extensively in Europe. HOWELL was unable to give the dates of the subject's sojourn in Europe but stated that it was a number of years ago.

HOWELL stated that WEST has influenced every member of the J. O. WEST family to join the Communist Party, with the exception of one individual CHARLIE WEST, the brother of the subject. HOWELL stated that CHARLIE WEST is a fine boy and does not follow the Communist Party line.

HOWELL stated that Mrs. WEST quite often stops at his home when she is passing through Kennesaw on her way to Meansville, Georgia, where DONALD WEST has been preaching in the Congregational Church. He advised that Mrs. WEST and her daughter, DELLA ROSS, the wife of MIKE ROSS, stopped to see him on August 23, 1941 for a few minutes on her way to Birmingham where DELLA was to meet her husband, MIKE ROSS. HOWELL stated that DELLA is the oldest of the WEST children.

The next child of the WEST family is ELSIE WEST ROSS, the wife of NAT ROSS. HOWELL stated that ELSIE WEST ROSS went to Russia a few years ago and is now in Denmark or at least that was what Mrs. J. O. WEST claims.

Mr. HOWELL stated that the next child in the J. O. ROSS family is CLEITH BELL WEST, who is married to BART HUNTER LOGAN. LOGAN is the leader of the Communist Party in North Carolina.

The next child, according to HOWELL, is DELLA WEST, who is presently married to MIKE ROSS, who is also active in the Communist Party in North Carolina. HOWELL advised that BART LOGAN and MIKE ROSS live in High Point, North Carolina, or at least did when he last heard of them.

b6
b7c

The last member in the family, according to HOWELL is [redacted] who is approximately 16 years old and is attending school in the Cass community where Mrs. J. O. WEST is residing.

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

HOWELL stated that DONALD WEST was well educated, strong as an ox but disloyal to the United States. -HOWELL was of the opinion that DONALD WEST would resort to violence if necessary in order to gain his ends. He stated that about two years ago WEST started to build a school on a 20 acre plot near Kennesaw; Georgia but quit before he had finished because he was told that the Ku Klux Klan would burn it down. HOWELL stated, however, that WEST had built a cabin on this 20 acre plot and had held meetings which were attended by the negroes in that community.

HOWELL advised that he had been following the activities of DONALD WEST for a number of years and that WEST was at one time an agitator at the Mount Berry School, located in Rome, Georgia.

HOWELL displayed a book entitled "Songs for Southern Workers", which was prepared by DON WEST when he was a State organizer for the Kentucky Worker's Alliance. The fly page of this book discloses that this book of songs was published by the State Executive Board, Kentucky Worker's Alliance, 400 Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky in May 1937. A preface to this book of songs was written by GILES COOPER, President of the Kentucky Worker's Alliance. In this preface COOPER states that "DON WEST was born in the mountain country of the South. He was brought up in poverty. By hard work he managed to get an education; he won a scholarship to travel and study in Europe; his opportunity to rise in the world was good but DON realized if he rose financially it would be at the expense of stomping his fellow worker down deeper into poverty. DON could never do that. He gave up what many would consider an easy life and fine opportunity for success and came back to live with his people. "When I rise", WEST says, "it will be when the great mass of my own common people rise in one big united movement.. 'No honest son of toilers will ever crush his fellows down for greedy financial gain'. His ability and courage to lead, even in the face of jails and gun thugs has won confidence and respect. Don is at present State organizer for the Kentucky Worker's Alliance. We are glad to have him with us."

One of the poems written by WEST in the above mentioned song book is entitled "My Country 'tis of thee", with words as follows:

"My country 'tis of thee
Land of mass misery,
Of this I sing.
Land where workers toil
And bosses reap the spoil
Where children starve and freeze
From fall til spring."

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

"My native country thee,
Our fathers fought to free
You from a king!
And in their steps we tread
Righting for meat and bread,
Workers, lift up your head--
Let freedom ring!

The union now, you see--
Our hope for liberty,
Of it we sing!
Let Southern voices sound
With union all around
The mountain side rebound
With songs we sing!"

The above book of songs is being retained in the Atlanta file.

Special Agent B. J. TRAEGER conducted the following investigation in Gilmer County:

Both the Superintendent of the School, F. E. PETIT, Gilmer County, and Ordinary HOLDER, of Gilmer County, advised that they were unable to locate any birth record for the subject.

Special Agent A. W. NEALE conducted the following investigation at Mount Berry, Georgia:

The scholastic record maintained at the office of the Mount Berry Schools reflected that DONALD WEST had attended the Mount Berry School from 1922 to 1926, receiving above average grades. A notation was placed upon his school record showing that he left school July 1, 1926, dissatisfied.

Dr. GREEN of the Mount Berry School advised that when WEST left school in 1926 he had told Dr. GREEN that he was not in harmony with the school system and was leaving for that reason. Dr. GREEN advised that the subject at one time was highly regarded because he was definitely above average in intelligence but Dr. GREEN stated the school's attitude changed when it was learned that the subject had attempted to persuade the pupils at Mount Berry to strike because the school was supported by capitalistic groups and because the school demanded a small tuition from the students. Dr. GREEN stated that WEST was considered to be a Communist agitator for his actions and beliefs at Mount Berry.

It is to be noted that the Mount Berry Schools have received considerable money from HENRY FORD in order to carry on their school program.

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Mount Berry is an industrial school.

The records at Mount Berry further disclosed that the subject's complete name is DONALD LEE WEST and he was born June 6, 1906 in Gilmer County, Georgia. His father's name was given as J. O. WEST and his occupation as a farmer.

b2
b7D

On January 7, 1942 Confidential Informant [] was contacted in Meansville, Georgia, and advised that the subject had resigned his pastorate effective November 1, 1941. The Informant stated that WEST had moved to Cartersville, Georgia. He advised that the subject was considered to be a Communist by the citizens of the Meansville community and there was no doubt in his mind that the subject is a Communist. Informant advised that [] was presently residing [] which is located two miles from Meansville, Georgia; also that information concerning the subject might be obtained from F. L. FACKLER, owner of the Halloway Canning Company in Meansville, Georgia. (S)

b6
b7C

Mr. F. L. FACKLER, Meansville, Georgia, was contacted and advised that he had seen the subject on numerous occasions visiting in colored people's homes. He was unable to give any information as to what the subject was discussing with the colored people but did state that it was his opinion that the subject was spreading Communist literature in and around Meansville, Georgia. FACKLER advised that the subject and [] published a local newspaper called "The Country Parson", which was very radical in its view points. He stated that "The Country Parson" was definitely against the Roosevelt administration.

b6
b7C

FACKLER stated that prior to June 22, 1941 he had on two or three occasions heard the subject deliver sermons in the Congregational Church in Meansville, Georgia. From these sermons FACKLER advised that it was his opinion that the subject was a German sympathizer in that the subject was definitely against the United States sending any aid or supplies to Great Britain. FACKLER stated that he had not heard the subject preach since June 22, 1941. He stated that from his observations the subject was definitely a Communist.

Mr. R. R. CARTER, owner of Carter's grocery store, Meansville, Georgia, advised that he had heard it stated by various individuals in Meansville that the subject was a Communist but that he could not verify this inasmuch as he had not had any contact with the subject. CARTER stated that he had heard that WEST was going to prosecute a few fellows in Meansville for slander. Mr. CARTER referred the writer to Mr. McGAHEE, local black-smith.

-9-
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

Mr. A. C. McGAHEE, Meansville, Georgia, advised that he was serving as Treasurer of the Meansville Congregational Church. He stated that in this capacity he had the opportunity on several occasions to talk with the subject who was serving in the capacity of pastor of the Congregational Church. McGAHEE stated that WEST was definitely in favor of labor unions and that they had had some arguments over that view point. He also advised that he saw a book of poems which was published by the subject and in this book of poems the subject stated he was an agitator. McGAHEE advised that the subject was agitating the negroes around the Meansville community to ask for higher wages. McGAHEE said "if that isn't Communism, I don't understand what Communism means."

McGAHEE also stated that the subject on one occasion exhibited a moving picture in the Congregational Church which was against imperialistic England. He stated that the subject edited a small newspaper called "The Country Parson", which was very radical in nature. He advised that subject's attitude towards England and the Roosevelt administration in the United States definitely changed after Germany invaded Russia. He stated subject had always talked for peace and had continuously advocated that America stay out of war. He advised that subject often severely criticized the Roosevelt administration, stating that the administration was taking America into an imperialistic war.

After June 22, McGAHEE said that the subject was definitely in favor of America aiding the allies. He stated in his mind there was no doubt that the subject was a radical and belonged to some subversive group. McGAHEE further advised that he seriously doubted whether the subject actually believed in any religion, even though he was acting in Meansville as pastor of the Congregational Church.

McGAHEE stated that the Congregational Church paid the subject a salary of \$1,200 per year, that the subject came to Meansville in November, 1940 and resigned as pastor of the Congregational Church effective November 1, 1941.

J. E. OWENS, farmer, Meansville, Georgia, Trustee of the Meansville Congregational Church, advised that the subject was the pastor of the Congregational Church in Meansville and also served as pastor of the Liberty Chapel, Jones Chapel and Crest Church, which are rural churches in Meansville, Georgia. OWENS appeared to be very reluctant about discussing subject but did state that if the subject had not resigned he would have been asked to resign at the end of his one year term. OWENS

-10-
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

advised that it was the general opinion around Meansville that the subject was a radical.

A. J. McCORD, farmer, Meansville, Georgia, advised that in his opinion the subject is a Communist. He stated that when the subject first came to Meansville in the fall of 1940 he had liked the subject very much. He stated that he had gone around the country with the subject in an effort to reorganize the farmers union, however, in traveling with the subject, McCORD stated that he soon ascertained that the subject was a radical and that his view points were not those of a loyal American. McCORD said that the subject was constantly criticizing the Roosevelt administration, stating that the administration was favoring the capitalists in the United States.

McCORD also stated that subject was very much against war and any possibility of America sending any supplies to England. He stated that the subject severely criticized the Roosevelt administration because it was leading America into war. He stated that subject maintained the above view point until July 1, 1941 and since that time has been strongly in favor of America entering the present war and sending aid to its allies.

McCORD stated that the subject printed a local newspaper called "The Country Parson", in which he expressed very radical viewpoints. He advised that the subject had edited a book of poems entitled "Toil and Hunger" in which the subject openly stated he was an agitator and a "Red". McCORD stated there was no doubt in his mind but that the subject was a Communist and a person who was disloyal to the United States.

G. B. HUTCHINSON, Superintendent of the Meansville Schools, Meansville, Georgia, advised that he had little contact with the subject but the few times he had engaged the subject in conversation he had obtained the opinion that the subject was very radical. He stated that he had read a book of poems which the subject had written and that it was very apparent from this book of poems that subject was a Communist. HUTCHINSON advised that the subject also wrote articles for a newspaper called "The Southern News Almanac", which was published in Birmingham, Alabama.

It is to be noted that The Southern News Almanac which was published in Birmingham, Alabama, is no longer in existence, having discontinued because of financial difficulties.

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

b2
b6
b7C
b7D

Miss LUCY S. COCHRAN, Postmistress, Meansville, Georgia, was contacted with negative results.

Confidential Informant [] advised that he believed [] would talk freely concerning the subject if contacted. Informant advised that [] had been closely associated with the subject and apparently had been under his influence, but since the subject had moved from Meansville, [] had been talking rather freely about the subject's activities. ~~(S)~~

b6
b7C

Accordingly [] was contacted at his father's farm, which is located approximately two miles from Meansville, Georgia. [] stated that he had been closely associated with the subject the first six months of 1941 in that he had [] "The Country Parson". [] advised that WEST edited this newspaper in his official capacity as pastor of the Meansville Congregational Church, Meansville, Georgia.

[] stated there was no doubt but that WEST was a Communist and would always follow the party line. [] gave the following signed statement.

"Atlanta, Georgia-
January 8, 1942 : b6
b7C

"I, [] give the following signed statement to S. D. DUFFEE knowing him to be a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me and I am making this statement of my own free will. My constitutional rights have been explained to me and I know that this statement can be used against me in a court of law.

"I am presently residing in Meansville, Georgia [] which is located approximately two miles from Meansville.

"I first came to know Reverend Donald L. West around Christmas time of 1940. West was then acting as the minister of the Meansville Congregational Christian Church. West came to Meansville around September of 1940.

"In January, 1941 West started editing a newspaper, "The Country Parson." [] This paper was very pro-labor in attitude and anti-war. West at that time was very much opposed to the United States"

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

aiding the allies in any way and strongly urged that the United States stay out of the war. I, too, was opposed to war. West printed the paper in a back room of his home in Meansville, Georgia. West told me that he wanted to learn to operate the printing press so that he would be able to operate the press when the Communist Party goes underground. West told me about his trip in Europe and how he was particularly impressed with the underground work of the Communist Party in Germany.

"When I first met Donald West he told me that he was not a member of the Communist Party. He told me this first after he received several copies of 'Soviet Power' by the Dean of Canterbury. West, also, received a great deal of literature from the American Peace Mobilization headquarters in New York City. West induced me to attend a meeting of the American Peace Mobilization in New York City in April around the sixth and seventh of April. He arranged a ride for me to New York City through the Southern News Almanac, newspaper, Birmingham, Alabama. I rode to New York City in an automobile driven by Sidney Rittenburg of Birmingham, Alabama. We were accompanied on this trip by Anna K. Lee and Joseph Gelder's daughter, both of Birmingham, Alabama. There was one other individual who went with us that I don't recall. West drove me to Atlanta and Rittenburg picked me up at the Atlantian Hotel in Atlanta.

"I, also, attended the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee at the instigation of Donald West. Myles Horton, director of Highlander Folk School, had written to West and stated that West could give a scholarship to anyone that he desired and so I went on West's scholarship. I attended this school two weeks in May, 1941. This school is a labor school. I did not notice anything that would indicate that it was a Communist school. I did learn that the Communist Party had a member attending this school and his name was Sidney Rittenburg. I heard later that Sidney Rittenburg was the executive secretary of the League of Young Southerners with offices in Birmingham, Alabama. This League of Young Southerners is Communist controlled. ✓

"Donald L. West told me that he was one of the original founders of the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee. Myles Horton told me that they didn't care to have West's name associated with the Highlander Folk School because of the fear of being accused of being a Communist organization, and of being investigated by the Dies Committee. I don't believe Horton is a Communist. ✓

"Donald L. West, also, told me during the course of my association with him that he, West, lived in Atlanta on five dollars a week during the time Angelo Herndon, colored, was being tried by authorities in Atlanta for spreading seditious material with the intention to incite a riot."

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

"West claimed that he helped investigate Herndon's case for the Communist Party and later helped Herndon write a book on Herndon's life. I don't know the date West said he did this in Atlanta but I believe it was some where around 1932 to 1934.

"West, also, told me about helping out in the textile strike at Rossville, Georgia in 1934 or 1935.

"West told me that he was an organizer for the C.I.O. in Harlan County, Kentucky and bragged about being throwed into the same jail with Theodore Dreiser. West said that he was severely beaten and the material that he, West, had for the coal mine strikers was taken from him. West claimed to have received a letter from John L. Lewis commending him, West, for his services and work in the coal fields. I don't recall the date West stated that all this happened.

"I have met Hardy Scott, Secretary of the Communist Party for Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia. I had been to Atlanta on several occasions with Donald L. West and he had left me sitting in his car while he went up to Scott's apartment at 680 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia. West always returned with Communist literature which he would give me to read. It wasn't until sometime in May, 1941 that West felt that I had been sufficiently conditioned in the Communist Party line in order to introduce me to Scott. West also introduced me to Nathan Katz whom I later learned through Hardy Scott is a Communist Party member.

"I was with Donald West the night Germany marched into Russia and it was then that I was sure West was a Communist. Prior to that date West had been extremely against United States going to war and of giving any aid to England but that night West immediately stated that the United States would have to give all possible aid to Russia and England in order to help them defeat Germany. West was very astonished that night when he heard Russia and Germany were at war but he very definitely changed his view points immediately and came out for all possible aid to Russia and England even to the extent of hoping that the United States would join with Russia and England in defeating Germany.

"I left Meansville, Georgia around the first of July, 1941 and came to Atlanta. West resigned as minister of the Meansville Congregational Christian Church in September, 1941 effective November 1, 1941. He moved from Meansville to Cartersville, Georgia where he has a farm.

"West wrote me a letter around the last of August, 1941 and stated that he felt his work in Meansville, Georgia had been worthless except for finding me and getting me started on the right path. West stated that he"

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

"hoped that I would become something in the labor movement and indicated that he hoped I would join the Communist Party.

"I never knew of Donald West to hold any other meetings at Meansville, Georgia than his church services. So far as I know he never held any meetings with the negroes. He did allow the negro cook to sit down and eat with him and his family at meal time for I saw that happen. West treated the negroes as his social equal.

"Donald West will always be right in line with the Communist Party and will always follow it.

"West has a sister in Russia who is married to a high Communist official but I don't recall his name. This sister writes under the name of Janet Weaver. He has another sister, Belle West, who is married to Bart Hunter Logan who is the Secretary of the Communist Party in North Carolina. Donald West has another sister married to Mike Ross and her name is Della Ross. Della is usually called 'Buddy'. Mike Ross is also active in the Communist Party.

"I have read the foregoing statement consisting of ten pages and have initialed each page. It is true to the best of my knowledge and I am signing my name to this statement voluntarily.

/s/

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Witnessed:
S. D. Durfee, F.B.I."

The above statement is being retained in the files of the Atlanta Office.

[REDACTED] came to the Atlanta Office on January 20, 1942 in order to furnish the writer more information concerning WEST and other Communists he had known through his associations with WEST. [REDACTED] stated that HOMER L. PIKE, a C.I.O. organizer, follows the leadership of HARDY SCOTT, Secretary of the Communist Party for Georgia. SCOTT is the subject of an Atlanta file entitled "HARDY LEE SCOTT, with aliases, ESPIONAGE - C".

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

[] stated that SCOTT, PIKE and the subject of instant case made a trip to Elberton, Georgia around the first of July, 1941, where WEST spoke to a group of colored workers at Elberton. [] stated that since that date PIKE has been organizing the Quarry Workers in Elberton, Georgia, for the C.I.O. [] stated that SCOTT kept PIKE supplied with Communist literature.

b6
b7C

[] advised that WEST poses as a preacher but is a profound atheist; that WEST and another noted Communist, CLAUDE WILLIAMS, believed that they can work through the church and convert the south to Communism.

According to [] WEST founded a religion called "Institute of Applied Religion" at Little Rock, Arkansas. He advised that WILLIAMS is a retired Presbyterian minister and formerly served as pastor at Paris, Arkansas.

b6
b7C

[] advised that one HOWARD LEE, who was for a time connected with the Southern Conference of Human Welfare, is a Communist and is one of CLAUDE WILLIAMS' converts. He stated that at one time HOWARD LEE considered building a Proletariat Temple in Arkansas.

[] advised that ALVA K. TAYLOR, Vanderbilt University, is the individual responsible for converting WEST to Communism. TAYLOR was later ascertained to have resigned from Vanderbilt and [] does not know where he is located at the present time.

b6
b7C

WEST also attended Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, where he met his wife, MABEL ADAMS. [] advised that MABEL ADAMS WEST is as much of a Communist as her husband DONALD WEST. He stated that the WESTS have two small children, [] both of whom are very small.

[] stated that subject bragged about organizing a group of volunteers in Kentucky for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, which went to Spain and fought for the Loyalist Government. According to [] subject claimed to have persuaded thirty or more individuals to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and to have raised several hundred dollars for the Brigade. WEST told [] that he had persuaded his wife's brother to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and that subsequently his wife's brother was killed in Spain fighting for the cause.

b6
b7C

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

[] advised that all the information given by him to the writer was told to him by the subject.

[] recalled that WEST went to Birmingham, Alabama in July 1941 with BART HUNTER LOGAN, MIKE ROSS and HARDY SCOTT to see ROBERT F. HALL, Secretary of the Communist Party for District 17.

b6
b7C

It is to be noted that BART HUNTER LOGAN is Secretary of the Communist Party for North Carolina, and is a brother-in-law of the subject. MIKE ROSS is also a brother-in-law of the subject and MIKE ROSS is likewise active in the Communist Party in North Carolina. HARDY SCOTT is previously mentioned as Secretary of the Communist Party in Georgia and did reside in Atlanta. At the present time HARDY SCOTT is located in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was recently transferred by the National Headquarters of the Communist Party.

b6
b7C

[] stated that WEST came to Atlanta quite frequently and on his trips to Atlanta he also stopped to see SAM FEINBERG and NATHAN KATZ. WEST told [] that while he was working on the Angelo Herndon case in Atlanta in 1933 or 1934, FEINBERG was always good for some food and that he would quite frequently go out to FEINBERG'S store and eat.

It is to be noted that both FEINBERG and KATZ are subjects of internal security cases in the Atlanta Field Division. KATZ is the leader of the Jewish Section or ROTHERNBERG GROUP in Atlanta.

[] advised that WEST spoke at a "Smash Hitler Committee" picnic in Atlanta, Georgia in September 1941. This picnic was held at Weinstock's in Atlanta. [] stated that the picnic was attended almost entirely by Jews, there being about 25 in attendance. He advised that this picnic was arranged by NATHAN and ANNIE KATZ. [] recalled that GEORGE GREENE visited with WEST during the summer of 1941 and had helped WEST on the Cunningham peonage case which WEST worked on in Oglethorpe County for some Communist front organization in Chicago, at their request. [] was unable to recall the name of this organization.

b6
b7C

[] advised that he did not know where GEORGE GREENE lived or his background but he understood that GREENE was a divinity student at Yale University.

[] advised that WEST hated RALPH MCGILL, Editor of the Atlanta Constitution newspaper, because in an editorial MCGILL had made the statement that he hoped German and Russian Communists would kill each other in the present war.

b6
b7C

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

[] also advised that both DONALD WEST and HARDY SCOTT referred to the F.B.I. as the Gestapo. [] stated that WEST had in his possession a .45 caliber pistol and a black jack and that WEST had told him that if anybody ever endeavored to pick him up for any reason whatsoever he would kill as many as he could before they got him. [] advised that it was his opinion that WEST would be an exceedingly dangerous individual should anyone ever attempt to arrest him.

b6
b7C

[] gave the writer several copies of "The Country Parson" which are being retained in the Atlanta files. He also gave the writer a little magazine entitled "Span". [] advised that he and the subject [] for JOSEPH HOFFMAN, Route 13, Kirkwood, Missouri. [] was not certain but believed that he and WEST []

[] only two months. The magazine "Span" claims to be a herald of reality and is a magazine of verse and prose. The following individuals made contributions to the "Span" for the April-May issue of 1941: H. H. LEWIS; HENRY G. WEISS; ALFRED ROCKWOOD; MARY GRAHAM; ISABELL KENLOG HAGGLUND; ALBERT CLEMENTS; JUDSON C. CREWS; LUCIA TRENT; JACK GREENBERG; RALPH CHENEY; AUGUST DERLETER; EDWIN C. GRABER; J. PATRICK BYRNE; LILLITH LORRAINE; C. B. JONES and the subject.

b6
b7C

The addresses of the various individuals mentioned above are not disclosed in the magazine.

b6
b7C

A perusal of the magazine "Span" indicates that it is extremely radical in nature and that the contributors thereto are following the Communist Party line. ELLIS W. KOKEN [] of this magazine along with WEST []

In the April-May issue 1941 of the "Country Parson", edited by the subject in Meansville, Georgia, there is a letter directed to the editor from HELEN H. GINGMAN, Executive Secretary, Conference of Southern Mountain Workers, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky. GINGMAN stated that she was deeply enthused and interested in what WEST had to say in his newspaper and the courage with which he said it.

The above is set forth for the information of the Louisville Field Office.

This same issue of the "Country Parson" carries a one page advertisement of the magazine "Friday", which is published at 114 East 32nd Street, New York City, with the notation that the "Country Parson" endorses "Friday" and which states that every citizen of Georgia and the south should read and study "Friday".

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

In the May, 1941 issue of "The Country Parson" there is set forth an article entitled "A Challenge to Christian Youth of America", which editorial is signed "The Religious Commission, American Youth Congress, 230 Fifth Ave., New York City". There is also set forth an editorial entitled "American Peace Mobilization" on religion, which editorial is signed Rev. JOHN B. THOMPSON, Presbyterian Church, Norman, Oklahoma, Chairman, Miss MARIAN BRIGGS, 1133 Broadway, New York City, National Secretary."

There is also a column about Congressman VITO MARCANTONIO, stating that he is a champion of peoples rights, bitter foe of war and fighter for peace, who has consistently opposed every step of the Wall Street imperialists toward involvement in this war. The above is set forth in this report to disclose the trend and the attitude of "The Country Parson", which was published by the subject of instant case.

[] also gave to the writer a small pamphlet entitled "A Christian Fellowship Message", which was published by Rev. DONALD L. WEST, with no date of publication given. This publication in substance states that the great majority of the American people do not want war. The present war is a war of rival imperialism and there is danger of America being dragged into the war, quoting from this pamphlet "But don't forget, we are in danger of being dragged in! Look what happened to the embargo against the overwhelming sentiment of the people. America's own imperialists, our Wall Street bankers, chase the dollar just as desperately as do the British or French or German. Profits come first for the profiteers. It makes no difference how much innocent blood may be smeared over them. Profits and blood flow well together. So the first step is to work up a sympathy on one side. Wall Street is cast in the role of a saintly warrior, a Gallahad, for democracy--but American boys of the common folks will do the dying. And unless the mighty voice of the common people who love peace can be united against war strong enough to send the war rats back to their holes, in we go!" "Look at the late Spanish debacle. When Franco, Hitler and Mussolini were crushing Spanish Democracy, did Britain, France, or our own government rush gallantly to the aid of embattled democracy? Far from it. Our government held doggedly onto the arms embargo, refusing to sell to the Spanish democratic government, but hypocritically ignoring Hitler's and Mussolini's hold in Spain, sold to them and enabled them to smash Spanish democracy! We hypocritically held onto the embargo then, but now that another imperialist war is on, we rush in with a special session and left the embargo! We are immediately told that we must take sides."

b6
b7c

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

"Little by little, step by step, as in the last war, we are dragged toward the brink. We are told that we must help those 'heroic fighters for democracy and freedom of small nations', Britain and France, who for centuries have themselves kept millions of colonial slaves in bondage! Do we forget that our own nation had to fight to free itself from the British yoke? Isn't it clear to us now that neither we nor the cause of democracy can hope to gain anything by us taking part in this present struggle for loot--colonies, markets, profits?"

[redacted] advised that the above leaflet was written and published by WEST in the Spring of 1941 and shows the subject's attitude toward war prior to June 22, 1941, when Germany marched into Russia.

b6
b7C

[redacted] advised that when WEST heard the news that Germany had marched into Russia he completely changed his attitude and was all for America entering the present war.

As mentioned previously in this report, WEST in an article printed in the Pike County Journal, Pike County, Georgia, on July 4, 1941 came out in an article against Germany and urged that Germany be stopped at all costs.

It is to be noted in connection with the above pamphlet by DONALD WEST, several copies of this pamphlet were found through a confidential source, in the possession of HARDY SCOTT, 680 West Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, who is Secretary of the Communist Party for Georgia.

On January 22, 1942 Sheriff G. W. GADDIS, Bartow County, Catersville, Georgia, was contacted and he advised that the subject was living on a farm about two miles from a little town called Cassville, which is located about six miles from Cartersville, Georgia. GADDIS advised that a few weeks back he had gone out and visited DONALD WEST with the intention of searching his premises to see if he could find anything which might indicate that WEST was involved in subversive activities. GADDIS stated, however, that WEST was very accomodating and showed the sheriff all over his premises. The sheriff advised that he saw nothing which would indicate that the subject was engaged in subversive activities, however, the sheriff advised that WEST has had for years the reputation of being a Communist and is known throughout Bartow County as a Communist. The sheriff stated that WEST had advised him that he would like to become an Army chaplain.

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Sheriff GADDIS stated that it was his opinion that if WEST obtained a position as Army chaplain it would be dangerous to the welfare of the United States because he believed that WEST would endeavor to convert the soldiers into Communists. The sheriff was unable to give any specific statements or acts committed by subject which would have a tendency to show that subject was a Communist, with the exception that the sheriff recalled that the subject was active several years ago in agitating the students at Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia, to strike.

Sheriff GADDIS advised that SAM PITTARD of Cassville, Georgia, might possibly know a great deal concerning the subject.

GUY N. ATKINSON, pastor, First Baptist Church, Cartersville, Georgia, advised that he did not know the subject. He stated that he was surprised that the subject had not contacted him, inasmuch as the subject is a preacher. ATKINSON advised that should the subject ever contact him he would endeavor to ascertain his beliefs and philosophy concerning the United States Government and would immediately advise the Atlanta Field Office of such beliefs.

Mr. JOEL NELSON, Postmaster, Cartersville, Georgia, stated that he knew nothing definite about the subject with the exception that the subject was known to be a radical and suspected generally by people of being a Communist. NELSON advised that he had never had an opportunity to converse with the subject.

NELSON furnished the writer a book of poems written by the subject entitled "Crab Grass". This book of poems is being retained in the Atlanta Field Division.

S. M. PITTARD, merchant, Cassville, Georgia, advised that the subject was presently living on a farm located about two miles from Cassville back in a section known as the "Devil's Hollow". PITTARD stated that WEST had been in and out from this farm on many occasions during the last three years. He advised that he believed WEST had been living at Meansville, Georgia the past year and had returned to Cassville only recently. PITTARD stated that the subject is known to be a radical and that he would testify if called upon that the subject is a Communist. He was unable to give any specific statements made by the subject which would set him out as being a Communist but PITTARD did advise that he conversed with the subject on numerous occasions and it was from the general conversations of the subject that he was able to tell that the subject was a Communist.

-21-
~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

PITTARD stated that the subject some few years back had endeavored to organize the students at Mount Berry School in Rome, Georgia into a strike because the Berry Schools were supported by money from HENRY FORD.

PITTARD advised that Mrs. J. O. WEST, the mother of the subject had been residing on the subject's farm for the past three or four years. He stated that on numerous occasions automobiles from out of the State of Georgia were seen to stop at the WEST farm. He advised that in the future he would endeavor to obtain the license tag numbers of any cars that stopped at the WEST farm and would forward them to the Atlanta Office.

PITTARD also advised that when WEST recently moved to his farm he brought along with him a printing press. He did not know whether the subject is at the present time using the printing press.

PITTARD referred the writer to A. J. MATTHEWS, farmer and school bus driver for the Cass Schools.

A. J. MATTHEWS advised that when WEST was a boy he used to visit an uncle near Cassville who is presently deceased. MATTHEWS stated that as a boy WEST used to ride his bicycle all over the surrounding community and distribute radical literature. He stated that it is well known that WEST is a radical and a Communist and that he would so testify that WEST is a Communist. MATTHEWS advised that he had seen some of the literature WEST distributed several years ago and would testify that it was Communist literature. He advised that subject had gone to college and also was reported to have traveled in Europe.

MATTHEWS stated that WEST came from a poor family and in order to obtain his education some organization must have helped pay his expenses.

MATTHEWS advised that his brother had married the subject's aunt and that he would endeavor to obtain through this source information concerning subject's activities and if he was able to obtain any information he would notify PITTARD so that PITTARD could contact the Atlanta Office.

Mrs. PINK M. MATTHEWS, who operates a grocery store in Cassville, Georgia, advised that she had never conversed with the subject but stated that it was generally known throughout the community that the

-22-
~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

subject is a Communist. She was unable to furnish any further information concerning the subject or his activities.

EDWARD HASTON, Superintendent, Cass Schools, Cassville, Georgia, advised that the [redacted] is presently a senior in the schools. HASTON stated that [redacted] is a splendid student and a very good boy. He stated that [redacted] had never showed any tendencies that are un-American in school, however, HASTON advised that he and two of his fellow teachers received a pamphlet at Christmas called "Constitution of Soviet Russia". These pamphlets were signed by [redacted] HASTON was of the opinion that although [redacted] signature was on the fly leaf of these pamphlets he was not responsible for the sending of them. Mr. HASTON believed that possibly [redacted] had sent them.

b6
b7C

HASTON advised that he did not know the subject of the instant case and therefore was unable to furnish any information concerning the subject.

Rev. R. C. KIMSEY, pastor, Baptist Church, Cassville, Georgia, advised that he first knew of DONALD WEST several years ago. Rev. KIMSEY was a pastor in the community known as Snow Springs, which is located six miles west of Adairsville, several years ago. He was unable to recall the exact dates. He advised that at this time WEST came into this community and endeavored to organize the farmers around there into a union. He stated that WEST distributed Communist literature and the Daily Worker to farmers in that community and that he had seen such literature. KIMSEY advised that WEST created a great deal of unrest in that community. He stated that at the same time WEST was endeavoring to create a strike at the Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia, and it was KIMSEY'S opinion that there was some correlation between WEST'S activities in the Snow Springs community and the strike at Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia.

KIMSEY also advised that at this same time he had read an article in the Daily Worker which was written by WEST.

KIMSEY advised that a Mr. CULBERTSON, who lives in that community would be able to furnish information concerning the subject's activities in that community at that time.

KIMSEY advised that MANUEL SUTTON, who professed to be a Jehovah's Witness appeared to be one of DON WEST'S cohorts during that particular period. He advised that WEST made his headquarters at SUTTON'S home.

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

KIMSEY stated that before the United States became involved in war with Japan, MANUEL SUTTON was circulating petitions against the United States going to war. He stated that from what he knows of the subject it is his firm conviction that the subject is a Communist.

On December 31, 1941 Trooper WEAVER of the Georgia State Patrol furnished the Atlanta Office with copies of "The Country Parson", which he obtained from A. J. McCORD of Meansville, Georgia. These copies are being retained in the Atlanta files.

In an Atlanta file entitled "NATIONAL STUDENTS LEAGUE, INTERNAL SECURITY - C" in the report of Special Agent L. O. PRIOR dated February 11, 1941, there is set forth information concerning the activities of the National Students League in Georgia from 1933 to 1936. In connection with the investigation, February and April issues of the Student Review were found in the files of the Fulton County Solicitor's Office. These Student Reviews listed ADAM LAPIN as editor, THEO DRAPER, managing editor, JOSEPH STAROBIN, associate editor, DENA AGIANS, literary editor, MORRIS LEVINE, business manager and ALEX SHINASI, circulation manager.

The February 1934 issue of the Student Review, on page 8, carried an article concerning the Southern Folk School library operated by DON WEST, CLYDE JOHNSON and WILLIS SUTTON at Kennesaw, Georgia. In connection with this organization a pamphlet was found published on the stationery of this group and indicating that its purpose was to arouse and educate the Southern farmers and workers for a society of justice, freedom and plenty; that this organization maintains a chain of circulating libraries and a folk school reaching out to remote farm communities, mountain neighborhoods and industrial villages.

It is to be noted that at this same time correspondence was found indicating that CLYDE JOHNSON was very active in organizing the National Students Union in and around Atlanta. Further it is to be noted that CLYDE JOHNSON and DONALD WEST were very active at this time in the Communist Party in Atlanta.

Concerning DON WEST, who was listed as director of the Southern Folk School and libraries, the following information was secured from the Daily Worker of the column written by MICHAEL GOLD, entitled "Change The World". In this article GOLD states that WEST is a young southern mountaineer boy who became revolutionary and studied Marx and Lenin for the purpose of organizing the negro and white farmers in Georgia. The column further states that WEST was born in Gilmer County, Georgia; that

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

he was educated at the Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia; at the Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee; Vanderbilt University and that he won a scholarship to study in Denmark and Europe.

In Atlanta file entitled "HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL - INTERNAL SECURITY - C" in the report of Special Agent J. J. LYNCH, Knoxville, Tennessee dated December 30, 1941, there is set forth information concerning the subject of instant case. In an interview with a Mrs. WINNIE WEEKS, Monteagle, Tennessee, she advised that she has heard DON WEST'S parody sung at the Highlander Folk School. This parody of DON WEST'S is entitled "My Country 'Tis of Thee", the first line of which begins: "My Country 'Tis of Thee, Land of Mass. Misery....." This poem has been set out previously in this report.

In the same report of Special Agent J. J. LYNCH, Knoxville, Tennessee, there is set forth the results of an interview with Dr. UPTON BEALL BOWDEN, County Health Officer, Pelham, Tennessee. BOWDEN furnished the Knoxville Office a part of a copy of a letter that he had written to the Methodist Bishop concerning Dr. LILLIAN JOHNSON, the individual who gave land upon which the Highlander Folk School is founded. This letter is maintained in the Knoxville files and reads as follows:

"In the early twenties, a Miss Lillian Johnson took up residence at Monteagle, the report has it that because of another Lillian Johnson living at Monteagle and because of a Ph. D. from a University in Leipzig, Germany, this Miss Johnson began using the title of Doctor.

"At the time she came to Monteagle she was a great W. C. T. U. worker, or appeared to be. She had a lot of energy for a woman of her age and soon made herself known in her community of Summerfield just above Monteagle. She took a very active interest in the Summerfield School and being a tireless worker, through contributions from without as well as within the county she was instrumental in getting a fairly respectable school building erected in that community and some very able teachers brought in. It took two or three years to do this.

"After she had taken such an interest in the schools she was elected by the County Court to the County Board of Education somewhere about the year of nineteen hundred and twenty-seven. She was soon elected chairman of the County Board of Education by the members of that board. It was then that I became very well acquainted with the lady, as I was beginning to visit the schools in a Public Health capacity. She asked me if I would mind taking her from school to school that she might become"

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

"better acquainted with the lay of the county, the school buildings and the people in each community. She visited all of the schools with me from time to time and attended the county court with me from time to time. She is one of the few people that I have been thrown with and have tried to understand but never could make any headway. Looking back over some of these trips, she made some remarks that I now think were unguarded at the time.

"At that time we had in Grundy County a very strong Communist Red settlement in the far east end of the county from Summerfield and Monteagle. In our rounds we visited schools in those neighborhoods and some of that element occasionally would get out hand bills, she was eager or seemed to be eager to get her hands on these documents. She was acceptable and visited in the best homes in Grundy County from the time she first arrived in the county. She was well thought of although her views did not coincide with the local citizen's.

"Along about the early or middle thirties, she decided to give up her residence in Grundy County and the ladies in Grundy County more especially those at Tracy City honored her by giving her a going away reception or party. At this reception there were men and ladies, a cross section of the best people, capital and labor and all denominations. At this reception she personally introduced two young men to everybody including me. She asked me to assist them in their work stating that they were taking over her home and was going to have and teach a cooperative Folk School. These young men, Miles Horton and Don West, have never darkened the door of one of these homes that she was acceptable in except perhaps on business. Not less than two weeks after they were in the county I personally found them visiting in the neighborhood where this red element lived. She did not introduce these two young men to this element but they knew right where to go. She knew where they lived.

"The school has never been a Folk School according to the definition of a Folk School, neither does their charter read as such. The number of acts of charity they have done could just about be put in a thimble. They have done no more in their immediate neighborhood than any neighbor would do in his community. This past summer they had a pretense of a Folk School. They were instrumental in organizing the common labor on WPA as a union. They did not get one dollar more in wages for these poor suckers than the WPA was paying that class of labor any where else, but they did charge the poor sucker one dollar out of each pay check. They were the cause of the WPA strike which as far as I have"

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

"been able to check they did not contribute ten dollars for the cause of the strike but did send out fifteen hundred appeals and received a few hundred dollars.

"Miss or Dr. Lillian Johnson was acceptable in all of the best homes and all of the churches in Grundy County but she is not acceptable in any of them today, nor does she visit any of them. She comes up in the summer but stays back off of the main highway and does not come to Monteagle and visit around as she once did."

The report of Special Agent J. J. LYNCH, Knoxville, Tennessee, discloses also that Confidential Informant [redacted] of the Knoxville Office, advised that DON WEST was next after MYLES HORTON to come as a member of the Highlander Folk School staff. DON WEST came from Kennesaw, Georgia. He was educated at the Berry School in Georgia, according to [redacted] which was founded by MARGARET BERRY. According to [redacted] it was generally known that DON WEST was a Communist and DON WEST did not deny it. DON WEST told [redacted] he was a Communist. [redacted] states that after DON WEST left the Highlander Folk School he heard that WEST was in jail and for all [redacted] knows WEST might still be in jail.

b2
b7D

According to [redacted] MYLES HORTON knew DON WEST before he came to Summerfield for MYLES HORTON would introduce WEST around the community and stated that he thought DON WEST would make a good partner.

In this same report by Special Agent J. J. LYNCH, Knoxville, Tennessee, Confidential Informant [redacted] of the Knoxville Office, on interview advised that he first heard of Communism back in 1930 when he was working for the Atlantic Coastline Railroad at Tampa, Florida. He was in Tampa for about two years and during this time he read in a Tampa daily paper that about fifteen or sixteen Communists had been rounded up in Tampa because of agitation and had been shipped back to their former countries. About 1931 or 1932 [redacted] came back to Monteagle, Tennessee. [redacted] stated that at about this time the Highlander Folk School was established. MYLES HORTON and DON WEST were there at this time and the Highlander Folk School was a sort of play center for the community. [redacted] stated that he attended several lectures at the Highlander Folk School but never attended any of the regular classes. About seven or eight years ago there was a meeting at the Highlander Folk School attended by ten or twelve people. [redacted] remembers that Dr. TAYLOR'S wife, who is presently at Camp Unitika, Monteagle, Tennessee, was present, as was also MYLES HORTON and DON WEST.

b2
b7D

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

DON WEST was giving a lecture concerning economical practices between different countries and was illustrating his point on a blackboard. In some way the discussion got around to Communism and [] related what he had heard at Tampa, Florida, saying that these Communists must be bad people. MYLES HORTON laughed at this and DON WEST looked hard at [] and someone else told him that he had spoken too fast. It was then that [] learned that DON WEST was a Communist.

[] stated that FRANZ DANIELS and DON WEST had a fight one night at the Highlander Folk School over a discussion on Communism and that apparently FRANZ DANIELS was against Communism. DON WEST left the school about a year after it was started because at this time the school was socialistic and DON WEST was a Communist and he could not agree to the socialism of the school.

According to [] DON WEST was raised in Georgia and came to the Highlander Folk School from Kennesaw, Georgia.

b2
b7D

As a result of a mail cover placed on all mail to subject at Meansville, Georgia, the following mail tracings have been received:

Letter to Rev. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Birmingham, Ala. 8-6-41 bearing return address "Buddie West, Gen. Del., Birmingham, Ala."

Letter to League for Mutual Aid, Room 2002-104 5th Ave., New York, N.Y. postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-7-41, bearing return address "D. L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mr. Pink Matthews, Cassville, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga. 8-7-41, bearing return address "The Meansville Parish, Donald L. West Pastor, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Miss Chrysteen Smith, 503 Lee Ave., Waycross, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-7-42 bearing return address "The Country Parson", D. L. West, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mrs. Homer L. Pike, 182 Merritts Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga. 8-7-41 with return address "The County Parson, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Don West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Atlanta, Ga. 8-7-41, bearing no return address.

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Letter to Mr. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Columbia, S. C., 8-7-41 bearing return address: "Offices 13-16 Sou. Carolina Nat'l Bank Bldg., Columbia, S. C."

Letter to Mr. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked 8-9-41 at Thomasville, Ga., bearing return address "E. C. Bishop, Route #3, Thomasville, Ga."

Letter to Donald L. West, P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Las Animas, Colorado, 8-9-41, with return address "Ben & Isabel Hoagland, 332 Locust Ave., Las Animas, Colo."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill., 8-9-41, bearing return address: "Col. William Henry Huff, 533 East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill."

Letter to The Abolish Peonage Committee, Room 305, 231 South Mills St., Chicago, Ill., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-12-41 with return address "The Country Parson, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mr. Ben Davis, 35 East 12 St, New York City, postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-12-41 with return address "Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mr. Sam Hall, Box 2032, Birmingham, Ala., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-12-41 with return address "Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mr. William Henry Huff, 533 East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-12-41 with return address "The Country Parson, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Atlanta, Ga., 8-13-41 with return address "182 Merritts Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga."

Letter to Mr. G. G. Ward, 642 Central Ave, S. W., Atlanta, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-14-41 with return address "Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mrs. Homer L. Pike, 182 Merritts Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-14-41 with return address "Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill., 8-10-41 with return address "Col. William Henry Huff, 533 East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill."

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Saint Louis, Mo. 8-14-41 with return address "The Span, Rt.13, Box 663, Kirkwood, Mo."

Letter to Mr. Don West, Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Tionesta, Pa. August 11, 1941, bearing return address "E. G. Murray, Tionesta, Pa."

Letter to Mr. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Hammond, Ind., 8-14-41 with return address H.S.K., 60 Glendale Park, Hammond, Ind."

Letter to The Rev. Donald L. West, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Brooklyn, N.Y.; 8-14-41 with return address 4907 - 17th Ave., Brooklyn, New York".

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Burlington, N. C. 8-15-41 with return address "Sam G. Johnson, P.O.Box 71, Graham, N.C."

Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Mike Ross, Sou-Conference for Human Welfare, 414 Exchange Bldg., Birmingham, Ala., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-16-41, with return address "D. L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Don West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Atlanta, Ga., 8-18-41 with return address "N. Katz, 486 Boulevard, N. E., Atlanta, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Donald West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Nashville, Tenn., 8-20-41 bearing return address "Alva W. Taylor, 101 Bowling Ave., Nashville, Tenn."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Editor of The Country Parson Magazine, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Georgia, postmarked New York, N.Y., 8-20-41, with return address "George C. Frend; 229 W, 27th St., New York, N.Y."

Letter to Rev. D. L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked High Point, N. C. 8-21-41 with return address "Ross, Box 543, High Point, N. C."

Letter to Dr. Donald L. West, Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked 8-21-41 at Atlanta, Ga., with return address "P.O.Box 1535, Atlanta, Ga. U.S.A."

Letter to Rev. Donald West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Brunswick, Ga., 8-22-41 with return address "Mrs. J. L. Jones, 1901 Gloucester St., Brunswick, Ga."

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill, 8-24-41 bearing return address "Ira Benson, 826 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill."

Letter to Rev. D. L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked High Point, N. C. 8-24-41, bearing return address "P.O.Box 543, High Point, N. C."

Letter to Mr. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Sarasota, Fla., 8-25-41 with return address "P.O.Box 644, Sarasota, Fla."

Air mail letter to The Rev. Donald L. West, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Brooklyn, N.Y. 8-28-41 with return address "4907 17th Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O.Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill, 8-?-41, with return address: "Col. William Henry Huff, 533 - East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill."

Letter to Rev. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., Box 27, postmarked Ellijay, Ga., 9-2-41 with return address "Lee Reece, Ellijay, Ga.,"

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., with postmark of Blairsville, Ga., 9-2-41 bearing return address "Byron Herbert Reece, Blairsville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. D. L. West, Meansville, Ga., with return address "Box, 543 High Point, N. C.", postmarked High Point, N. C. 9-3-41.

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Thomaston, Ga., 9-3-41 with return address "G. L. Thurmond, Thomaston, Ga., Rt.3"

Letter to Rev. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Waycross, Ga., 9-4-41 with return address "503 Lee Ave., Waycross, Ga."

Letter to Don West, Rt.#2, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Monteagle, Tenn. 9-5-41 with return address "Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O.Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Huntington, W. Va., 9-6-41, with return address 530 W. 11th Ave., Huntington, W. Va.

Letter to Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Atlanta, Ga. 9-8-41 with return address "H.L.P. 182 Merritts Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga."

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga.; postmarked Burlington, N. C. 9-?-41 with return address "P.O. Box 710, Graham, N. C."

Letter to Rev. Donald West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill., 9-?-41, with return address "231 Wells St., Room 305, Chicago, Ill."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked New York 9-?-41, with return address "H.P. Room 704, 30 Irving Place, New York City."

From the above set forth mail covers it will be noted that the subject has had correspondence with the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, which is presently being investigated by the Knoxville Field Division for Communistic activities. It is also noted that the subject has had correspondence with HOMER L. PIKE, 182 Merritts Ave., Atlanta, Georgia, who has previously been referred to in this report. Likewise, it is noted that the subject has had correspondence with N. KATZ, 486 Boulevard, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, who is the subject of an Atlanta file entitled "NATHAN KATZ - INTERNAL SECURITY - C", a known communist. Also, it is noted that the subject has had correspondence with BUDDIE WEST, who is the wife of MIKE ROSS, a known Communist in North Carolina. Also it is noted that subject has corresponded with MIKE ROSS at High Point, North Carolina.

PENDING

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

~~SECRET~~

THE KNOXVILLE, NEW YORK CITY, SAVANNAH, CHICAGO, HUNTINGTON, CHARLOTTE, MEMPHIS, INDIANAPOLIS, PITTSBURGH, MIAMI, BIRMINGHAM and DENVER FIELD DIVISIONS, will note the results of the mail cover and will furnish to the Atlanta Office any information contained in their files pertaining to the individuals who reside in their field divisions and who are corresponding with the subject, and will conduct any further investigation deemed appropriate.

THE CINCINNATI FIELD DIVISION, at Bethel, Ohio, will conduct appropriate investigation to determine the subject's activities in Bethel during the summer of 1940 as set forth in Bureau letter, as noted in instant report.

THE LOUISVILLE FIELD DIVISION, at Lexington, Kentucky, will conduct investigation to determine the extent of the subject's activities from 1936 to 1938.

It is to be noted that the subject was state organizer of the Workers Alliance at Lexington, Kentucky in 1937 and that Bureau letter set forth in instant report indicated that the subject was a Communist Party organizer in Kentucky from 1936 to 1938.

Will also endeavor to obtain information as to whether or not the subject organized an Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Kentucky during this period of time.

At Berea, Kentucky, will ascertain whether the subject attended school at Berea College, and if he was involved in any subversive activities at that time.

Also will search their indices to ascertain whether or not the subject was active in the Harlan County coal strike several years ago.

THE NEW HAVEN FIELD DIVISION, at Yale University, will interview GEORGE GREEN, Divinity Student, if deemed advisable, for any information he may have concerning the subject in instant case.

THE SAINT PAUL FIELD DIVISION, will search their indices and furnish any information contained therein pertaining to the subject regarding his activities in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the Spring of 1940.

~~SECRET~~

Atlanta, 100-559

~~SECRET~~

It is to be noted that Bureau letter set forth in instant file reported the subject as having been located in Minneapolis, Minn. in April of 1940.

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION, at Adairsville, Georgia, will in the Snow Spring community contact Mr. CULBERTSON for any information he may have concerning the subject's activities several years ago in that community.

At Cassville, Georgia, will recontact S. M. PITTARD and A. J. MATTHEWS for any information they may have developed concerning the subject's present activities.

At Ellijay, Georgia, will contact LEE REECE for any information he may have concerning the subject's activities.

At Atlanta, Georgia, will ascertain the holder of P. O. Box 1535 and if deemed advisable contact this individual for any information he may have concerning the subject and his activities.

PENDING

~~SECRET~~